DRAFT 2015 Lahontan Triennial Review Proposed Priority List (August 10, 2015)

Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Clarify Lahontan Water Board policy on package plants	The current Basin Plan indicates all package plants will be regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). Los Angeles County (and potentially other counties and local municipalities) believes small aerated package plants are considered "alternative" systems and are authorized under their local authority and do not require additional authorization from the Water Board. Clarification on the applicability and specific authorization is necessary and may result in a basin plan amendment, clarification memo, or through Water Board approvals of Local Area Management Plans	0.10	Newly proposed project

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Site Specific water quality objectives for specific groundwater basins	Interested parties, especially authors of Salt & Nutrient Management Plans required by State Board's Recycled Water Policy, are assessing the assimilative capacity in groundwater basins or Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and nutrient loading. The Taste and Order Threshold for drinking water or agricultural uses, is the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level for TDS and is the applicable Water Quality Objective (WQO) to all groundwater in the Lahontan region with those designated beneficial uses. If these WQOs are exceeded, or projected to be exceeded, it may be appropriate to set site specific WQOs for that groundwater basin or the sub-basin.Additionally, some stakeholders are interested in preserving higher quality groundwater and support development of more protective groundwater sub-basin objectives to limit discharges of TDS and nitrogen. (Perhaps using Region 8's "Groundwater Management Zones" with "maximum benefit objectives" as a model for Region 6.) For this project, staff would evaluate groundwater quality, assimilative capacity, and the ability to maintain higher quality waters for specific groundwater sub-basins with available data and would evaluate the data and recommend whether it is appropriate to set specific WQOs. The Resource Needs estimate does not include producing a basin plan amendment.	0.35	Newly proposed project

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Editorial revisions and "Basin Plan fixes"	Miscellaneous corrections and improvements, such as: • Correcting the incorrect square mile number for the size of the region • Features that are in the wrong watershed • Consistent use of terms • Correct references to new policies and plans None of these possible changes would be substantive.	0.30	Newly proposed project

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Site specific objectives for a reach of the Mojave River	Establish Site Specific Objectives for groundwater in the Mojave River Flood Plan Aquifer and surface water in the perennial reach of the Mojave River downstream of Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VVWRA) to Silver Lakes (Helendale). Compounds of interest are salt, nutrients and general minerals. Surface water objectives are of primary interest to develop appropriate effluent limitations for the VVWRA's NPDES permit. Currently, surface water quality objectives for the Mojave Hydrologic unit set at Barstow for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and nitrate would apply at VVWRA by the tributary rule However, because the Mojave River is ephemeral in the section from Helendale to Barstow, the river water quality cannot be measured on a perennial basis and the surface water quality objectives may not be relevant or appropriate for developing applicable objectives in this area	0.40	Newly proposed project

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Region-wide approach to TDS water quality objectives for surface waters	Site specific TDS objectives for surface water were developed based on limited samples and protect/maintain high quality water but are typically more stringent than needed to protect beneficial uses. Two possible options are proposed: (A) Adopt a regionwide TDS Water Quality Objective (WQO) that would supersede the existing site specific objectives. (B) Adopt new site specific objectives for TDS that are based on protection of beneficial uses, and adopt a more stringent value, if applicable that is based on new data, for maintaining high quality water.	0.50	Newly proposed project

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Revise water quality objectives for bacteria	The current objective of 20 colony forming units of fecal coliform per 100 ml in the Lahontan Basin Plan applies to all surface waters in the region and is the most stringent objective in the state of California. Based on the results of ongoing field sampling in the Lahontan Region, revisions to federal criteria for recreational waters, and a proposed State Water Board policy to incorporate the use of *E. coli* as an indicator (anticipated in late 2016), revisions to the Lahontan Basin Plan may be proposed to establish site-specific objectives Water Board staff and contractors are collecting, and analyzing data to evaluate the current condition of water body reaches in our region and determine what applicable objective should be applied based on beneficial uses. . Staff is evaluating the State Board proposed standard and USEPA's guidance. Staff is coordinating with State Board in the development of their statewide applicable objective to ensure the Lahontan region is accurately represented.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Review new scientific information to evaluate the need for changes to the water quality objectives for nearshore areas of Lake Tahoe.	Evaluate research findings and propose next steps to set nearshore assessment indicators as a first step to evaluating the need for new nearshore water quality standards. Resource needs listed here only include staff evaluation of research findings, interagency coordination, public meetings, stakeholder outreach, and development of a workplan.	0.50	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Program Manager	The Basin Planning Program Manager participates in State/Regional Water Board Roundtable activities, and workplan development, provides information to the public, etc.	0.30	The Program Manager's duties are ongoing.

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
2018 Triennial Review	Prepare the 2018 Triennial Review staff report and priority list. Host scoping meetings and hearings, as necessary, for Water Board consideration.	0.20	To complete in November 2018

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Miscellaneous work that will not directly result in Basin Plan amendments	Staff resources are needed for work such as: coordination with other states, other agencies, and Native American tribes regarding water quality standards; development and management of contracts related to planning; staff training, coordination with stakeholders involved with aquatic invasive species, etc.	0.6	Miscellaneous planning related work is ongoing.

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Protecting and Enhancing Watershed Resiliency (Riparian Protection Policy)	Revise Basin Plan to include specific implementation measures to protect all beneficial uses or ground and surface waters from the effects of development and hydromodification. Specific emphasis is needed on protecting desert surface waters, including measures to control or prevent excessive erosion of soft soils and subsequent down stream sediment deposition that adversely impacts Aquatic and Wildlife Habitats. Other enhancements could include improving meadows and floodplains to increase groundwater storage and improve flood attenuation.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Biological indicators	This project was originally described as "Revise existing narrative water quality objective for protection of aquatic communities (nondegradation of aquatic communities objective)." The current project description is "Develop narrative and/or numeric biological objectives (i.e., biocriteria) to protect the biological integrity of the Region's surface waters. This may include development of new objectives, applying a California Stream Condition Inventory score (CSCI), and/or revising and/or expanding the applicability of the Basin Plan's current narrative objectives for "Nondegradation of Aquatic Communities and Populations" (which currently apply only to wetlands).	0.90	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Squaw Valley groundwater withdrawal	Evaluate the effects of potential increased groundwater withdrawal in Squaw Valley on the water quality of Squaw Creek and its tributaries. In particular, examine the interplay of water supply and water quality influencing biological conditions. This project may also involve a consideration of flow requirements for Squaw Creek possibly in the form of flow objectives, with regulatory effect, to protect certain beneficial uses.	0.50	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Revised Hot Creek water quality objectives	Develop revised objectives for Hot Creek (Owens River HU) based on changes in water quality related to increased constituent levels emanating from the natural groundwater flows entering the creek.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Adopt or revise site-specific water quality objectives for Fish Springs in the Owens Valley to facilitate NPDES permitting for a state fish hatchery.	The Department of Fish and Wildlife operates Fish Springs hatchery in the Owens Valley where source water is groundwater and the discharge from the hatchery forms Fish Springs Creek. The Basin Plan currently has an objective for Fish Springs Creek above the hatchery; however, water no longer exists at that location. Water Board proposes removing this objective from the Basin Plan and setting an objective for Fish Springs creek below the hatchery. This effort may involve gathering additional water quality information	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Susan River site specific objectives	Develop revised objectives for section of the Susan River and its tributaries downstream of Susanville's Community Services District (District). Consider lowering water quality while ensuring continued protection of beneficial uses. Staff will need to involve the District, current downstream agricultural users, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife in evaluating alternatives including: increased treatment, increased land disposal capacity, and establishing or ensuring minimum flows in Susan River and its tributaries.)	2.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Revise Chapter 3 language on determining compliance with water quality objectives. (Means of Monthly Means)	The proposed revisions would change water quality objectives expressed as “means of monthly means” to annual means and define minimum sample numbers and sampling frequencies for determining compliance with objectives. This could avoid the need for new Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listings based on very small sample numbers, and facilitate delisting.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
BIOLOGICAL Beneficial Use for Mojave River	Add the Biological Use (BIOL) for specific reaches of the Mojave River with remaining viable habitat, specifically from Bear Valley Road to Helendale. BIOL beneficial use will increase protection of the most important source of water and wildlife habitat in the high desert area. BIOL beneficial use in reaches of the Mojave River that maintain perennial flow will increase protection of unique biology (but may limit some recreational activities). In addition, Water Board staff will consider groundwater management to maintain or restore base flow to the River.	0.30	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Eagle Lake "building moratorium"	Amend the Basin Plan to lessen restrictions on building density for septic systems. This project may be addressed by incorporating State Board's new Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.	0.50	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Biotic Ligand Model for copper	Incorporate the USEPA national criteria for copper into water quality standards program using the Biotic Ligand Model.	0.50	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Revise PCPs water quality objectives	The USEPA recommends a revision of water quality objectives for pentachlorophenol (PCPs), where appropriate. The USEPA believes existing objectives are not sufficiently protective of early life stages of salmonids.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

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Projects	Description	Resource Needs (PYs)*	Status
Remove two beneficial uses from Piute Ponds wetlands	This project would involve removal of Groundwater Recharge (GWR) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from the Piute (also known as Paiute) Ponds and wetlands in the Amargosa Creek watershed eastern Los Angeles County. The ponds and wetlands are maintained with effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 14 (Lancaster) wastewater treatment facilities.	1.0	Continued from 2012 Triennial Review Project List

***NOTES**

PYs = personnel years

“Resource Needs” are PYs over a three-year period